



# LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



## Preschool

*Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.*

*PROVERBS 22:6*

790 Arcadia Street, Arcadia 0083

Pretoria, SOUTH AFRICA

Cell: +27 (0)82.938.6950

Preschool Principal and Manager: Karin Niebuhr

### LTS PRESCHOOL – 2018 REPORT

**12 January 2019**

We thank God for richly blessing our LTS Preschool community in 2018 and for His guidance, protection and care throughout the year. We are thankful for the opportunity to serve in this vibrant and diverse community, for the freedom to bear witness to our Faith and to impart our Christian and Lutheran values to the children in our school and to their parents and families.

This report will include a brief summary of the past year, our teacher training and staff profile, our Ventersdorp Outreach and the way forward.

#### **2018 in Review**

Our student body is very diverse and is made up of children from all over South Africa and we currently also have children from ten African countries. The linguistic range is wide and very few children speak English in the home. For this reason, many children experience a language delay as English is our medium of instruction. They do however, begin to comprehend very quickly and their spoken English catches up within a year.

We ended the year with 30 children and starting this year, we are filled to capacity in each of our three classes. Being at full capacity is facilitating our financial sustainability which is a vital goal for us in the future. Four and a half years into our program, we have begun getting siblings join the school and are also receiving several new children through word-of-mouth. We are thankful that our Christian values and the quality education we provide are becoming known in the community. All Glory to God!

The Lutheran Theological Seminary (LTS) also welcomed their new Rector, Rev. Dr. Walter Winterle at the start of the year. Rev. Winterle has taken a keen interest in the Preschool and has a passion for children and their Faith Formation. On a Wednesday, our children join the seminary community for Matins and Rev. Winterle very kindly offered to teach and review our weekly Bible story. We are thankful that our children are able to experience and be a part of the LTS community.

With the help of donations from our Australian friends, we were able to implement a soccer program and a music program. Our certified soccer coach Baza is imparting his passion for the sport and for soccer development to our older children. These sessions have proven very beneficial for the children's gross motor skills and their emotional, social and cognitive development. Our music teacher, Liza, has a Masters from UP and her passion for music has brought great joy to the children who love her interactive and energetic approach. The children can be heard singing songs from their music lessons throughout the day.

#### **Teacher Training and Staff Profile**

Our staff members are all connected to the LTS community, either as former students, family members of students or LTS teachers and LTS staff. Of the seven children, living on the LTS Campus, five are currently attending the

Preschool and two, subsequent to attending the Preschool, have started Primary School. We are thankful to our Canadian donors for covering the 2018 school fees of one of the Primary School children. Over the past four and a half years, our staff complement has increased and the staff members that have been with us for several years are gaining valuable experience, skills, knowledge and a deeper understanding of Early Childhood Development (ECD). Our Mission is to equip and train teachers in Early Childhood Development who will go out to serve God in their communities. We are thankful to Bob and Linda Funk and Pastor Arnie(LCMS Arizona)for coordinating donations for our teacher training and also to our Canadian donors for their financial support of Trinah Simakoloyi's tuition. Our current staff profile is as follows:

- **Trinah Simakoloyi** is from Zambia. She graduated as a Deaconess from LTS in 2014 and has been with the Preschool since then. She is currently teaching our 3-4 year old class and is also in the third and final year of her ECD Diploma which she is doing through Lyceum College.
- **Nokulunga Mntambo**, the wife of Pastor Nathan Mntambo (ELC) joined us in 2015 and is currently teaching our 4-5 year-old class and will also complete her ECD Diploma through Lyceum College at the end of 2019.
- **Portia Kabini** completed her Deaconess studies at the end of 2018 and is currently in the second year of her ECD Diploma, also through Lyceum College. Portia has begun her internship at the LTS Preschool this year. She is the wife of former LTS seminarian, Katlego Monyepao, and their three year-old daughter has also begun attending the Preschool this year.
- **Tshireletso Lonyatso** is from Botswana and also completed her Deaconess studies at the LTS in 2014 and has been teaching our 2-3 year olds since then. Tshireletso completed an ECD certificate in 2015 and a First Aid certificate in 2016.
- **Florence Idiiz** is Congolese and is the wife of LTS seminarian Shukuru Kabaka. Florence has been our staff assistant since the beginning of 2017. Florence and Shukuru's three year-old daughter attends the Preschool too. Florence was due to enrol in a one-year ECD certificate (NQF Level 4) with Eduexperts this year but has decided to defer for one year due to her second pregnancy.
- **Hope Kachochu** is also Zambian and completed her Deaconess studies at LTS at the end of 2018. She will start an internship at the Preschool this year and will also enrol in an ECD certificate (NQF Level 4) with Eduexperts in 2019.
- **Ellen Mbonani** has joined the Preschool this year as an assistant. Ellen is the mother of Welcome and Vincent, Emily's grandsons. Emily is the LTS cook. Vincent attends the preschool and Welcome is in Grade 1 at Arcadia Primary School.
- **Mekdes Aboye** is Ethiopian and is the wife of seminarian Chernet Arifecho. Their older daughter attended the Preschool for several years and their younger daughter, Eliana, has now joined the Preschool too. Mekdes helps out at the Preschool as needed and especially during the six-week phase when three of our teachers do their practical teaching at Arcadia Primary School and in May and October when they write exams.

We are thankful that we have been guided to this Mission and that we have been able to assist our staff members on their educational journey and to provide a venue for their Faith Integration and to provide quality, Preschool education for the children of LTS and the wider community. This Mission truly comes from God and starting out, on the request of Bishop Weber, almost five years ago, we had no idea of the magnitude of God's plans for us and for the community! God never ceases to amaze!

### **Ventersdorp Outreach**

In January 2018, we were approached by Dean Christopher Mosenegi of Ventersdorp about starting a Preschool in his community. Chris is a former LTS student and we were very pleased when he reached out to us, as this request dovetails with our Mission and Vision.

With the help of Bob and Linda Funk and Pastor Arnie (LCMS Arizona), we were able to equip and set up a small Preschool for Dean Mosenegi in Ventersdorp. We were delighted that the Funks and Pastor Arnie were able to attend the opening of the, aptly named Duduetsang – Glory to God, Preschool in April 2018.

Dean Mosenegi continues to work tirelessly at building the Preschool. They are currently renting premises that consist of two classrooms and a playground and have approximately 30 children.

Teacher training remains the biggest challenge. Grace, the wife of Dean Mosonegi, together with a few helpers is running the school. Grace attended a week-long ECD workshop in Pretoria in 2018 and came to observe at the LTS Preschool when the Ventersdorp school first started. We visit the Ventersdorp school on a quarterly basis to assist in training and mentoring. Our staff member, Tshireletso spent a week assisting and mentoring their staff in August 2018. We are hopeful that Grace will also enrol in the one-year ECD course through Eduexperts as soon as possible. The future of the school depends on two important factors: 1. Teacher training and 2. Registration with the Government.

Dean Mosonegi is again, working tirelessly to register the Preschool with the Government in order to gain the valuable grants which will help to supplement staff salaries which are currently only R500 p/m. and come from the children's school fees. For registration purposes, we have funded the building of a small kitchen and we are now hopeful that the school will be registered this year. Without government funding, the Preschool will not be financially sustainable as school fees are very low in rural areas.

We, however, trust that God will continue to lead and guide Dean Mosonegi and allow us to assist him with teacher training and mentoring which is such an important and integral part of a Christian Preschool's ability to serve the community and to glorify God!

### The Way Forward

As mentioned above, our mission is to provide quality, Christian education to the children of the LTS and wider community, in addition to, training and equipping Christian Early Childhood teachers to teach in their own communities all over South Africa and Africa so that they can provide quality, Faith-based Education. At the LTS Preschool, our teachers receive mentoring and on-the-job training, the opportunity to further their education in Early Childhood Development and the possibility of going out into their own communities equipped to provide quality, Christian, Preschool education. We trust that God will continue to equip us to serve Him through this Mission and to reveal His plans for us.



We close the year with a lovely Nativity Performance.



Rev. Winterle teaches the children during Matins.



Celebrating our diversity on Heritage Day.